

The Augusta Coin Club Meets on the 3rd Thursday of the Month at the Sunrise Grill, 3830 Washington Rd. Martinez

The Augusta Coin Club since 1959

Pres. Steven Nix
1st V.P. Glenn Sanders
2nd V.P. Howard Black
Sec. John T. Attaway
Treas. Elaine Attaway
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THE AUGUSTA COIN CLUB MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

April, 2015

Our next meeting is scheduled for Thurs., April 16 at 7:00 PM, early arrivals from 6:00
Club Spring Show, May 8 & 9 at Columbia County Expo Center

Club Meeting Calendar for 2015

Jan. 15	May 21	Sep. 17
Feb. 19	June 18	Oct. 15
Mar. 19	July 16	Nov. 19
Apr. 16	Aug. 20	Dec. 17

Club Spring Coin Show Coming Up Fast



Partial Scene from Club's November, 2014 Coin Show

Since the ACC moved its two yearly shows to the recently opened Columbia County Exposition Center in Grovetown, both dealer participation and public attendance has been on the rise. The state of the art facility is easy to reach via I-20 from Aiken, SC to the east or Thomson, GA from the west as well as a variety of local roads. It is in an attractive area with numerous eateries close to the site. Bourse Chairman David Chism hopes to reach a count of 50 tables sold for the upcoming event by show time which is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, May 8 & 9, from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM both days. As with past shows there will be five raffle prizes including a first prize US gold coin. Members and show attendees can pay \$1.00 donation or purchase six tickets for \$5.00. Those selling tickets should make sure that the name and phone number of the donor is listed on the stub and brings them with the cash to the show by 2:00 PM Saturday, May 9.

The Coins of 1835 (excluding gold), 180 Years ago By Arno Safran



The obverses of an 1835 Year set (approx. actual size when printed)
50c, 25c, 10c & 5c silver over 1¢ & ½¢ copper
[Magnify page to fit monitor screen to view details]

When one considers the turbulence going on in different parts of the world today and the current political split right down the middle in our own country, it is somewhat sobering to travel back in time to the US circulating coinage of 180 years ago and discover that another President with a



King Andrew, the First

different Congress were at odds when the coins of 1835 were being struck. Andrew Jackson was in the third year of his second term as 7th President of the United States and had recently been censured by the US Congress which insisted that the President had "assumed upon himself authority and power not conferred by the Constitution and laws, but in degradation of both." Jackson was either loved or hated.

(Continued on page 2, column 1)

Collecting the he Coins of 1835 (excluding gold)

(Continued from previous page)



The reverses of an 1835 Year set (approx. actual size when printed)
50c, 25c, 10c & 5c silver over 1¢ & 1/2¢ copper
[Magnify page to fit monitor screen to view details]

Our coinage, on the other hand had become pretty ordinary by 1835 consisting of the same basic design types going back to 1807 and 1808. What makes 1835 a special year for the collector of modest means is the unusually high reported mintage for most of the eight denominations produced. Records were broken for the half dime, dime and quarter denominations while the reported mintages for the cent and half-dollar were close to records set earlier. Only the 1835 half-cent with a reported mintage of 398,000 pieces seems low in comparison but because the denomination was suspended as a business strike after 1835 enough were saved making it one of the most common dates of the series.



An 1835 Classic Head 1/2¢, C-2,, R1 grading AU-50

The Classic Head half-cent was originally designed by Asst. Chief Engraver John Reich in 1809 but unlike the large cent, which was issued consecutively--(except for 1815)--thru 1857, the 1/2¢ experienced a number of gaps. It was suspended after 1811 and not resumed until 1825 at the request of a Baltimore firm. By then, William Kneass was the Chief Engraver and continued to use the dies prepared by John Reich until 1829. The denomination was struck again in 1826, skipped in 1827, resumed in 1828 and 1829 in fairly large numbers, skipped once again in 1830, then coined as proofs with a very low mintage in 1831 before being produced as business strikes again, this time in smaller numbers from 1832 thru 1835 inclusive. Despite a reported mintage of almost 400,000, enough specimens of both varieties of the 1835 half-cent exist in all grades through uncirculated to satisfy the collector's needs.



An 1835 Half-cent, this, a C1 variety, graded MS-63 Brown by NGC

The Classic Head half cent had a diameter of 23.5 mm, same as the preceding design-type. Although there were some goods priced in 1/2¢s, the denomination had been used mainly for making change for the Spanish Real (worth 12 1/2¢s) and had never been very popular. 1835 would be the final year the Classic Head half-cent type would be produced as a business strike and due to its relative large mintage and unpopularity as a coin, enough survivors exit for a collector of even modest means to afford an example grading as high as MS-63. In 1836, an undisclosed small number of Classic Head 1/2¢ proofs were made ending the series. They are extremely rare.



An 1835 Coronet Large Cent, N-5, R2, type of '34 variety

In 1835, Christian Gobrecht was brought into the Mint to assist Kneass who had earlier suffered a stroke. The new Mint Director Robert Maskell Patterson asked Gobrecht to not only continue the work on the designing of a new silver dollar coin but to improve some of the current designs including the Coronet large cent type, (AKA "the Matron Head"). As a result we have two main sub-types of the 1835 large cent. These are referred to as the type of '34 and type of '36.



An 1835 Coronet Large Cent, N-5, R2, type of '36 variety (AKA "Young Head", diameter reduced from 28 1/2 mm to 27mm.)

The detail below shows the narrowing of Miss Liberty's neck for the "head of '36 variety seen at the right.



Detail of 1835 Head of '34 and Head of '36 varieties

Collecting the he Coins of 1835 (excluding gold)

(Continued from previous page)

The Coronet cent was first struck at the end of 1815 but with the 1816 date. Originally it was thought to have been designed by our first Chief Engraver, Robert Scot but later circumstantial evidence led numismatic scholar Robert W. Julian to believe it to be the work of John Reich. The coin as designed in 1815 and successive issues ranged between 28mm and 29mm in diameter. But starting in 1835 with the introduction of Gobrecht's "type of '36 (AKA" the Young Head"; the diameter was slightly reduced to 27.5 mm. In 1835, the reported mintage of cents was 3,878,400. This total included all the die varieties for that year and the two main sub-types. As a result, the 1835 cent is considered very common and priced as such in grades up through MS-63,

In 1835, the cent had the purchasing power of about 28½¢ and the ½¢, 14½¢.



**An 1835 Capped Bust half-dime, LM-3 R1 graded XF-45 by PCGS
Large 5 in date, large 5¢ on reverse**

Our five-cent coin was struck in silver from its humble beginning is 1794 thru 1873. The actual nickel version of the five-cent denomination would not appear until 1866. After 1805, the Draped Bust/ Heraldic type half-dime was suspended for a period of 24 years to be resumed until 1829 re-surfing with John Reich's Capped Bust's Spread Eagle type slightly modified by Chief Engraver William Kneass. The series was struck in consecutive years thru 1837 with fairly large mintages, the 1835 setting a record with a reported 2,760,000 struck. There are eleven die marriages that include three obverses with large dates and three with small dates, also five reverses with large 5¢ and three with small 5¢.



1835 sm dt. and sm. 5c



Enlargement showing large date and large 5c at left, small date & small 5c at right



An 1835 Capped Bust dime, JR-9, R2 graded AU-55 by PCGS

The reported mintage for dimes struck in 1835 was 1,410,000, the largest number of dimes struck since its initial year, 1796. Research by the five authors who wrote the standard attribution book on *Early US Dimes: 1796-1837* states that many of the dimes dated 1835 were actually struck in 1836 and 1837 but as a date, dimes dated 1835 are the most common and available at modest prices depending on the grade. The AU-55 specimen shown above is particular attractive because it is well struck and appears original, (i.e., not cleaned or artificially toned.) In 1835 a dime had the purchasing power of \$2.77.



**An 1835 Reduced Size Capped Bust Quarter, B-6, R2
graded XF-40 by Anacs**

Between 1828 and 1829, the Mint developed a new technology called the "close collar" which enabled every dime to be struck with the exact same width. In 1831, Mint Director Samuel Moore--who served from 1824 to 1835--decided to have Chief Engraver William Kneass apply the same principle to the Capped Bust quarter series. To accomplish this, Kneass reduced the size of the quarter from 27 mm to 24.3 mm (same size as now) while thickening the planchet in order to retain the same weight and ratio of silver to copper. Some of the features of Miss Liberty on the obverse of the new reduced size quarter were refined while the motto E PLURIBUS UNUM on the reverse was removed along with the scroll that housed it.

The reduced size Capped Bust quarter was struck from 1831 thru 1838 inclusive. Save for the 1833 issue which had a reported mintage of only 156,000, all dates in the short series are considered fairly common; including the almost 2 million mintage reported for 1835. According to Steve M. Tomkins, author of *Early United States Quarters 1796-1838*, the 1835 date may have been placed on a number of quarters struck in late 1834 as well as early 1836. The probability notwithstanding, the fact remains that despite the record numbers for the 1835 quarter the date is moderately priced only thru XF-45. Not too many people could put aside an uncirculated quarter during the 1830s because back then the purchasing power of 25¢ was akin to what almost \$7.00 could acquire today.

While the reduced size quarter is arguably not as attractive as the large Capped Bust design (1815-1828), an 1835 specimen costs only one-third of the price in XF-40 alone.

(Continued on page 4, column 1)

The author, Col. Bill Myers is an orthopedic surgeon specializing in hand injuries, also a former President of the Augusta Coin Club (2005-2008). He was deployed twice in Iraq during the first decade of the 21st Century and continues to serve in the Army while residing now in Tucson, AZ .Bill collects a wide variety of coins, tokens, paper money and scrip that feature hands, as well as military issues and political propaganda. He is also is an exhibitor having won a number of prizes at coin conventions throughout the USA. (Ed.)

Club News

Our next meeting is Thursday, April 16 at the Sunrise Grill. The meeting starts at 7:00 PM but the site is open to members from 6:00 on. As this is our last meeting before our show, President Steven Nix and Show Chairman David Chism will discuss what needs to still be done in preparation for and during the event; also how many tables have been sold as of the meeting date.

Regarding the agenda, President Nix will give an update on the number of members who have signed up for the all day trip to attend the Georgia Numismatic Association Convention on Saturday, April 18.

At the upcoming meeting Steve will also present a PowerPoint program featuring a number of proposals offered by members for our 2015 club medallion and will ask the members present to vote for the one they like best. The prospects of also striking a silver medallion for 2015 are still on the table for discussion as well.

As we are well into April, those members who have not remitted their dues by the April 16 meeting date will be removed from the roster and will no longer receive the monthly newsletter. Since we don't wish to lose any of you who fall into that category, please remit a check of \$15.00 made out to the Augusta Coin Club and mail to P.O. Box 2084, Evans, GA 30809 or better yet, attend this important pre-spring show meeting and give it to our Treasurer, Elaine Attaway yourself and thanks in advance.

Show and Tells are always welcome at our meetings, so if you have acquired a numismatic item that interests you which you would like to share with your fellow and lady members, please bring it in.

There will be an auction that follows the program and since we do not have to leave the premises at any given time, feel free to stay and bid on the lots that are of interest to you. Regarding the auction, the club would also like to acknowledge Shelby Plooster as one of our consistent "runners" who "deliver the goods" as it were to the successful bidders, also David Chism as Bids Recorder and of course, 1st VP, Glenn Sanders, our fine auctioneer.

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SPRING COIN SHOW

MAY 8 & 9 2015

AUGUSTA COIN CLUB

FRIDAY
9AM - 5PM

SATURDAY
9AM - 5PM

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